
3. PARKLAND CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

The parks and recreation classification system can assist the City in evaluating the distribution of existing park facilities, where new parks and facilities should be located, and what features would be appropriate at different types of parks. In addition, the classification system can be used to communicate the types of recreation facilities desired by the community and to establish parameters for the planning and design of new parks and facilities.

Mini-Park

Size: 1-1/2 acre or smaller.

Service Area: Not included in City service area calculations.

Intended Service Group: Neighborhood residents within walking distance.

Description: Mini-parks, due to their size, are of limited recreation value. Due to the limited size, and high maintenance costs for limited recreational value, mini parks are not recommended in the future.



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Potential Facilities: Seating, picnic tables and barbecues, informal grass play area, planting, tot play area, hard court.

Examples of Existing Mini-Parks: Hamilton Square Park, Mill Creek Park, Howard Weichert Park

Neighborhood Park

Size: 3 to 10 acres (5 acres preferred minimum size).

Service Area: Walking distance (1/2-mile radius).

Intended Service Group: Neighborhood residents.

Description: Neighborhood parks serve as the traditional recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Neighborhood parks should serve as extensions of the residential fabric, allowing for recreational and social activities that cannot be accommodated in residential yards due to size or density limitations. They should be designed for both active and passive recreation activities tailored to the specific needs of the neighborhood, and should address the needs of all age groups and physical abilities. Park design should create a "sense of place" that enhances neighborhood and community identity.

Park features that would create a community-wide "destination" should not be included in a neighborhood park. Lighted recreation facilities would generally not be considered for neighborhood parks because they encourage park use by those beyond the intended service area.

Potential Facilities: Design of each neighborhood park should include a master planning process with neighborhood involvement. Specific features of each neighborhood park should be based on the needs and desires of the neighborhood residents.

Potential Features: Pre-school and elementary-aged play areas; hard courts (basketball, volleyball, handball and/or tennis); specialty courts (shuffleboard, bocce ball, horse shoes); picnic area; shaded seating area; open grass area for

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informal play; practice sports fields for league play; water feature for play, such as a walk-through fountain; security lighting; recreation checkout facility (where programming needs dictate, such as for after-school recreation programs); walking and bicycling trails. Restrooms may be included at neighborhood parks when programming needs dictate. For example, neighborhood parks with planned after school programs and/or practice sports fields should have restrooms.

Examples of Existing Neighborhood Parks: Diana Park; Oak Creek Park

Neighborhood/School Park

Size:

Service Area:

Intended Service



Neighborhood residents and school students.

Description: The neighborhood/school park is similar in size and function to a neighborhood park, but is located immediately adjacent to a school. Some of the recreational functions can be combined with the school site, such as hard courts, sports fields, and play areas, to maximize efficient use of resources. Neighborhood/School parks achieve maximum potential when joint use agreements allow the school use of park facilities and community use of school facilities.

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As part of the park master planning process, scheduling and use allocations need to be determined, to minimize scheduling conflicts between school and neighborhood use of facilities, and to coordinate operations issues such as maintenance.

Potential Facilities:

Same as neighborhood parks. If a restroom is part of the design program for a neighborhood/school park, encourage restroom design that can serve both the school and the park.

***Examples of Existing
Neighborhood/School
Parks:***

Nordstrom Park, Paradise Park, Jackson Park*

* (Jackson Park is a substandard size based on these standards)



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Community Park

Size: 10-acre minimum.

Service Area: Citywide.

Intended Service Groups: All City residents including community and school groups; may also serve neighborhood park function for surrounding residents; may attract regional residents.

Description: Community parks focus on meeting the recreational needs of the community-at-large. They allow for group activities and other recreational pursuits that are not recommended at neighborhood parks.

While community parks also often meet the needs of neighborhoods, frequently community parks are "destination" parks with special facilities, such as lit sports fields, amphitheaters, gymnasiums, etc. that serve the entire community. Restrooms, off-street parking, night lighting of facilities and other active recreation facilities are typical park elements that encourage higher levels of public use and longer user-days when compared to neighborhood parks.

Potential Facilities:

Examples of Existing Community Parks:



Community/School Park

<i>Size:</i>	10-acre minimum.
<i>Service Area:</i>	Citywide.
<i>Intended Service Groups:</i>	Same as community park with added focus of adjacent school students.
<i>Description:</i>	<p>The community/school park is similar in size and function to a community park, but is located immediately adjacent to a school. Some of the recreational functions can be combined with the school site, such as hard courts, sports fields, play areas and off-street parking, to maximize efficient use of resources.</p> <p>As part of the park master planning process, scheduling and use allocations need to be determined, to minimize scheduling conflicts between school and community use of facilities, and to coordinate operations issues such as maintenance.</p>
<i>Potential Facilities:</i>	Same as community parks.
<i>Examples of Existing Community/School Parks:</i>	None

Recreational Open Space

<i>Size:</i>	No minimum or maximum size; depends on resource to be preserved.
<i>Service Area:</i>	Not included in City service area calculations; may have regional value.

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Intended Service Groups: All City residents; may attract regional residents.

Description:

Potential Facilities:

Examples of



Recreational Open Space: Silveira Park (County-owned); Malaguerra park (County-owned)


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Trails/Linear Parkways

<i>Size:</i>	No minimum or maximum length.
<i>Service Area:</i>	Citywide.
<i>Intended Service Groups:</i>	All City residents; may attract regional residents.
<i>Description:</i>	<p>Trails should be grade-separated for pedestrian and/or bicycle use. Some trails may be appropriate for equestrian use. Trails should connect various areas of the City, as well as parks, recreational open spaces, and other community facilities such as schools. Trails may serve as part of a regional trails network. They should connect to the City's on-street bicycle route system for recreational use as well as providing a means of alternative transportation.</p> <p>City trails should be coordinated with the County Trails Master Plan. A Citywide Bikeways Master Plan should indicate both the on-street bicycle route system and the Class I off-street bicycle trail system.</p> <p>Walking trails within a park or recreational open space would not be classified separately as a trail/linear parkway, except that major connecting trails in parks and park preserves would include trail route identification and would be included in total City trail mile calculations.</p>
<i>Potential Facilities:</i>	Staging areas including parking and rest rooms; interpretive and directional signage, fitness trails, overlooks and kiosks.
<i>Examples of Trails:</i>	Little Llagas Creek Trail (proposed)

Sports Park

<i>Size:</i>	20 acre minimum.
<i>Service Area:</i>	City-wide.
<i>Intended Service Groups:</i>	All residents, community-based sports organizations and school groups; may serve limited non-resident sport participants for tournament and regional play.
<i>Description:</i>	Sports Parks focus on active recreational facilities, especially for organized sports. Consolidation of multiple sports fields at one location allows for efficiencies of maintenance and scheduling. With a focus on active sports, sports parks do not have all of the amenities of community parks.
<i>Potential Facilities:</i>	<p>Sports fields, including fields lit for night use, concession areas, rest rooms, off-street parking, tot play area, associated facilities for storage and maintenance.</p> <p>Facilities and programs are typically fee-based and reservable.</p>
<i>Examples of Sports Parks:</i>	Soccer Complex (privately leased and operated)

Special Use Facility	
Size:	I
Service Area:	C
Intended Service	C r o n P s : A ll City residents, designated community user groups, school groups, and some non-residents.
Description:	<p>Special use facilities meet City-wide recreational needs and are not necessarily located in parks.</p> <p>Multi-purpose uses should be encouraged, provided that additional uses do not conflict with the intended special use.</p>
Potential Facilities:	<p>Gymnasium, Aquatics Center, Cultural Arts Facility, Youth Center, Multi-Purpose Recreation Center, Senior Center, and associated support facilities, such as off-street parking, storage, concession areas, etc.</p> <p>Depending on the use, facilities and programs may be fee based and reservable.</p>
Examples of Special Use Facilities:	Community and Cultural Center (under construction)

Homeowners Association Park

<i>Size:</i>	Depends on facility.
<i>Service Area:</i>	Neighborhood served by Homeowners Association.
<i>Intended Service Groups:</i>	Residents within Homeowners Association.
<i>Description:</i>	Homeowner Association Parks are generally within a residential area for the exclusive use of residents and are privately developed and maintained by the association. While Homeowner Association Parks provide some of the functions of a neighborhood park, because they are privately operated and public access is frequently prohibited, they cannot be considered as a complete substitute for a neighborhood park.
<i>Potential Facilities:</i>	Informal grass area, tot lot, picnic areas, swimming pool, clubhouse, seating areas, paved courts.
<i>Examples of Homeowner Association Parks:</i>	Carriage Square; Heritage Green

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